

**Memorandum on Assistance for the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union**

*February 1, 2000*

Presidential Determination No. 2000–11

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Assistance Program for the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union

Pursuant to subsection 517(b) in title V of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2000 (Public Law 106–113), I hereby determine that it is in the national security interest of the United States to make available funds appropriated under the heading “Assistance for the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union” in title II of that Act without regard to the restriction in that subsection.

You are directed to report this determination to the Congress and publish it in the *Federal Register*.

**William J. Clinton**

**Remarks at Frank W. Ballou Senior High School**

*February 2, 2000*

Thank you. Now, all of you sitting out here in this audience, you know, some of us speak in public for a living; others don't. I thought Darnell was terrific. Didn't you think he did a good job?

I am so glad to be here today with all of you at Ballou Senior High School. I thank the band for playing for us earlier today. I thought you all did a great job. And I thank Dr. Durham and Dr. Bridges for welcoming me here and for giving me a track-and-field jacket, which I will wear happily. I thank the students who met me.

I want to say a special word of thanks to the chairman and CEO of America Online, Steve Case, and for Epic Learning's president, David Sterling. I thank them for what they said here today and for the commitment they have to giving you and young people like you all over this country a chance to live your dreams by making sure you have access

to the technological future that ought to be within reach of every American. They don't have to do this; they're doing this because they know it is the right thing to do. And I thank them for being here.

I want to talk a little today about what our job is in the Government, what my job as President is, what Washington's job should be to make sure that we can have more stories like the ones I saw from the students today that Darnell introduced me to. And I want to thank all the students that showed me what they were doing to either repair or to work with computers. But nothing that the President proposes that costs any money can be done unless the Congress goes along. And there is an enormous amount of interest in the United States Congress today in both parties, in both the Senate and the House, to do something about this.

And there is a big delegation from Congress here, so I want to introduce them. I'd like to ask them to stand, and I hope you will express your appreciation to them: First of all, Senator Bob Bennett, from Utah, who headed our Y2K efforts in Congress—thank you, sir; Congresswoman Maxine Waters from California; Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee from Texas; Congressman Bill Jefferson from Louisiana; Congressman Adam Smith from Washington; Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher from California; Congressman David Wu from Oregon; and your Representative in Congress, Eleanor Holmes Norton. Thank you.

Did I miss anybody? And I want to thank your wonderful Mayor, who was once a member of our administration, Mayor Anthony Williams. Stand up, there. Thank you very much.

I want to just mention a couple of other people. First of all, thank you, Superintendent Ackerman, for welcoming me. I want to thank Harris Wofford, who is the head of the AmeriCorps program and VISTA. The AmeriCorps\*VISTA volunteers are working to help solve this problem of the digital divide all over America. They're young people who are going back into our schools, going back into our community, helping people who otherwise wouldn't have a chance, and earning some money themselves for college. Some of you might want to consider